

C161660

-3-

These white hairs are my apology for what shortcomings or deficiencies there may be in my effort to comply with your wishes.

First, it might be well to define what the functions of a Diplomatic Mission are.

Some of you may have imagined diplomacy as a sort of ultra genteel existence; easy on the brain, but hard on the silk hat; a job where one dines rather than dies for his country.

But, I can assure you any such idea has no likeness to Canada's wartime organization at Washington.

In the first place, it is the function of a Legation to keep its Government constantly informed regarding current developments and trends in the country where it is situated.

Intelligent information is the only basis for policy and action, and it is the function of the diplomat to pass on and interpret anything that may help guide his Government towards sound conclusions.

The natural counterpart is the interpretation of policies and events in the diplomat's own country to the Government and people of the country in which he is stationed.

Whether this is by direct official contact or through the written or spoken word, it is an essential function of diplomacy to cultivate a clear and friendly understanding of his country's policies and so far as is possible a mutual concurrence when they meet or conflict with policies of the other Nation.

Thirdly, there is the actual negotiation of treaties and agreements, and the hundred and one less formal arrangements upon which international goodwill can be firmly based or conversely upon which if improperly handled it can be shattered.

Fourth, there are countless unforeseen situations which swirl up out of nothing, and which must be dealt with as they arise as wisely, intelligently and expediently as may be. Half the time it is just a question of putting a drop of oil

here/